

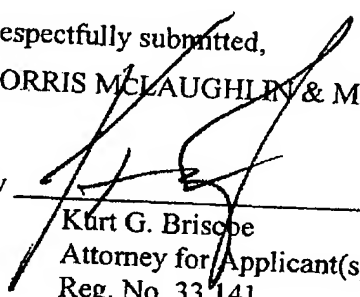
REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The sole issue for consideration is the rejection of claims 1 – 14 under 35 USC §103(a) as being obvious over Alt et al. ("Alt"), U.S. Patent No. 6,767,360. In response, Applicants submit that Alt is not prior art against the instant application. Thus, the present invention was made prior to Alt's U.S. filing date of February 8, 2001. Applicants are in the process of assembling the appropriate proofs, and these will be filed as soon as possible.

Early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,  
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By

  
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